



U.S. Department of Energy
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy



Building Energy Codes

Crawl Spaces and Basements Working Group Session

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Crawl Space/Basements Top 5 Issues

1. Moisture

- Mold
- Capillary
- Bulk Water
- Lack of Vents
- Diffusion
- Rim Joists

2. Insulation Techniques



Crawl Space/Basements Top 5 Issues (cont'd)

3. Consistent Compliance and Enforcement

- Nationally
- State to State
- Local Jurisdiction

4. Code Allowance of Un-insulated and Conditioned Basements



Crawl Space/Basements Top 5 Issues (cont'd)

5. Interior versus Exterior Insulation

- R.5/R.10/R.?
- Interior Insulation
 - Durability
 - Moisture
 - Homeowner Sabotage



Potential Solutions

1. Research

- Vented versus Un-vented
- Various Mechanical Systems
- Climate Effects
- Soil Types
- Vapor Retarders

2. No Trade Offs

- Minimum U-Values



Potential Solutions (cont'd)

3. Education

- Code Officials
- Builders
- Subs

Also include Building Science in Addition to Code Requirements.

Do it Before a Mandated Enforcement Date.